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LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of note verbale No. 034/04/80-192 dated 7 February 1999 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi. It protests against the opening by Mr. Abdolwahed Mousavi Lari, the Iranian Minister of the Interior, of a municipal office and an educational institution on Abu Musa, an island which belongs to the United Arab Emirates.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi.

It wishes to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the opening by Mr. Abdolwahed Mousavi Lari, Minister of the Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 5 February 1999, according to reports in the official Iranian media, of a municipal office and an educational institution on Abu Musa, an island which belongs to the United Arab Emirates, is to be regarded as a flagrant violation by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the memorandum of understanding concerning Abu Musa concluded between the two countries in 1971. This act is to be regarded as imposing an unlawful state of affairs and as constituting an attempt to perpetuate the occupation of the island, alter its demographic composition and bring it under Iranian sovereignty by force.

Accordingly, the Government of the United Arab Emirates strongly protests to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran against this unlawful action. It regards this and all previous measures taken by the Iranian Government on Abu Musa as unwarranted acts of provocation that do not confer any rights on the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to the island.

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms its sovereignty over Abu Musa. It once again affirms that it does not recognize any other sovereignty over the island, and it reserves all its rights with regard thereto.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.